



News Release

Contacts: Jack R. Warner, Executive Director and CEO
jack.warner@sdbor.edu

Janelle Toman, Director of Communications
Janelle.toman@sdbor.edu

Telephone: (605) 773-3455

Fax: (605) 773-5320

www.sdbor.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Thursday, March 31, 2011

Campuses Focus on Student Success Outcomes

PIERRE, S.D. – Strategies to ensure student success in college will be the focus of a statewide conference next month in Oacoma.

The Student Success Conference May 10-11, sponsored by the South Dakota Board of Regents, will feature advice and insights from Vincent Tinto, a nationally recognized leader in student success initiatives. Tinto is Distinguished University Professor at New York's Syracuse University and until recently the chair of its higher education program.

“Dr. Tinto is a highly-sought-after expert in this area,” said Jack Warner, the regents’ executive director and CEO. “He has conducted research and written extensively on higher education, particularly on student success and the impact of learning communities on student growth and attainment. We are very pleased to have him in South Dakota to share his expertise and to meet one-on-one with representatives from each of our six public universities. The focus will be on targeted outcomes geared to making our students more successful in college.”

Tinto already has been working with a conference coordinating team to examine data on student success from the six South Dakota campuses. In preparation for the conference, they reviewed student success initiatives currently in process and future planning that focuses on student success, Warner said.

“We see this statewide conference in May as the next step to frame specific projects and initiatives at the both the institutional and system levels. This is a very high priority for us,” Warner said.

As more students enter public higher education, Warner said both those who are just out of high school as well as non-traditional students who return to the classroom after many years away will benefit from focused strategies to ensure that their college experiences are positive and successful. Each of the six public universities has been asked to share examples of their best practices at the conference, which will be held at the Cedar Shore Resort and Conference Center in Oacoma.